

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Sherer Announces Energy-Related Tax Savings Available Until April 15



State Rep. Donald B. Sherer, R-147th, Stamford, New Canaan, announced that new energy-saving tax incentives adopted by the state legislature are available to consumers until April 15.

Rep. Sherer said the legislation also provides more funding for home heating assistance programs to low-income individuals and imposes tougher penalties for energy price gouging. Rep. Sherer has also sent information to residents in his district on this new legislation, SB 2100.

“For most homeowners,” Rep. Sherer said, “the main benefit is a suspension of the six percent Connecticut sales tax on energy-efficient products purchased between November 1, 2005 and April 15, 2006.”

Qualifying products include insulation, programmable thermostats, water heater blankets, window film, window and door weather strips, caulking, water heaters, gas furnaces, and windows that meet federal Energy Star standards and oil furnaces that are at least 85% efficient.

“It is important that homeowners in Stamford and New Canaan know they can take advantage of this new legislation,” said Rep. Sherer. “For lower income people, more home heating assistance is available so that people do not have to choose between food or medicine and heat.”

“For others,” Rep. Sherer added, “this is a good time to take advantage of the opportunity to install water heater insulating blankets, weather stripping or even new heating equipment. There will be long-term energy savings that result from taking these energy-saving actions now.”

Specifically, Rep. Sherer said, the new legislation provides the following energy assistance:

1. increases benefits under the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP), which helps low income households pay their heating bills and provides related services;

2. provides benefits for moderate income households under the Contingency Heating Assistance Program (CHAP) component of CEAP;

3. increases the number of households provided with weatherization services;

4. establishes a new program to provide furnace tune-ups and other energy efficiency services, available to all income groups.

For more information on low-income energy assistance, Rep. Sherer said that residents may contact the state Department of Social Service at www.ct.gov/dss or dial 2-1-1 for the state Infoline assistance center.

Rep. Sherer serves the 147th Assembly District of Stamford and New Canaan in the state House of Representatives.